



News Release

May 5, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Terri Schorzman, 855-2558, ext. 231

Public is Invited to Help Plan the Future of U.S. 20/26 between Boise and Caldwell

Meridian – The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study has begun and the public is invited to participate in planning the future of this important roadway.

The corridor preservation study will identify future transportation improvements and ways to preserve future rights-of-way between Boise and Caldwell. The study is a partnership between the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) and the Idaho Transportation Department.

The first public open houses for the U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation will be held:

- **Wednesday, May 10, 2006**
4 to 8 p.m.
Friendship Celebration Church
765 E. Chinden Blvd., Meridian
(east of Zamzow's on the south side of Chinden)
- **Thursday, May 11, 2006**
4 to 8 p.m.
Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare
3402 Franklin Road, Caldwell
(southeast corner of U.S. 20/26 and I-84)

Project presentations will start on the hour beginning at 4 p.m. There will be optional one-hour discussion sessions following each presentation.

U.S. 20/26 is one of the few east-west roadways in the Treasure Valley that runs from Boise to Caldwell. It is currently a two-lane roadway with a 55 mph speed limit.

Current land use along the roadway is mainly agricultural, but an increasing number of residential subdivisions are being constructed. The future is expected to bring mixed-use development that will transform U.S. 20/26 into an urban corridor. COMPASS and ITD want to work cooperatively with cities and Ada and Canyon counties to keep U.S. 20/26 functioning as a safe, primary east-west route in the future.

The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study boundaries are Eagle Road on the east and Interstate 84 in Canyon County on the west. When complete, the study will identify:

- A vision for how the community would like the roadway to function as part of the regional transportation system
- The improvements and actions necessary for this vision to be implemented
- Additional property acquisition needed to accommodate the future needs in the corridor

There will be several opportunities for the public to participate in this study, including public meetings and a public hearing. The public can also provide comments at any time on the project Web site at: www.itd.idaho.gov, go to Get Involved, choose Southwest Idaho, click on U.S. 20/26 Corridor Study.

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Boise, Caldwell, Eagle, Meridian, Nampa, Star, Ada and Canyon counties, Canyon Highway District No. 4, Ada County Highway District, COMPASS Board and ITD are all involved with this study and will be asked to adopt the final plan.

MEDIA NOTE: The media is invited to attend the open houses on May 10 and/or May 11. Please call Terri Schorzman, 855-2558 ext. 231, if you plan to attend.

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Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

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Título VI

Se les recomienda a las personas que necesiten un intérprete o arreglos especiales que llamen a la coordinadora de participación pública, Gwen Smith, al (208) 334-4444 ó TDD/TDY (208) 334-4458.

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